

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.-18. (canceled)

19. (currently amended) An immune adjuvant composition comprising

(a) a saponin possessing immune adjuvant activity, wherein the saponin is derived from *Quillaja saponaria*; and

(b) an immunostimulatory oligonucleotide comprising at least one unmethylated CpG dinucleotide motif,

wherein the immunostimulatory oligonucleotide is not a part of a DNA vaccine vector.

20. (canceled)

21. (currently amended) The immune adjuvant composition as claimed in claim ~~20~~19, wherein the saponin ~~adjuvant~~ comprises a substantially pure saponin ~~adjuvant~~.

22. (currently amended) The immune adjuvant composition as claimed in claim 21, wherein the substantially pure saponin ~~adjuvant~~ comprises QS-7, QS-17, QS-18, or QS-21.

23. (currently amended) The immune adjuvant composition as claimed in claim 22, wherein the substantially pure saponin ~~adjuvant~~ comprises QS-21.

24. (previously amended) The immune adjuvant composition as claimed in claim 19, wherein the immunostimulatory oligonucleotide comprises a CpG motif comprising more than one unmethylated CpG dinucleotide.

25. (currently amended) The immune adjuvant composition as claimed in claim 19, wherein the immunostimulatory oligonucleotide comprises one or more ~~non-traditional nucleotides~~ phosphate-modified nucleotides.

26. (currently amended) The immune adjuvant composition as claimed in claim 25, wherein at least one of the one or more phosphate-modified ~~non-traditional~~ nucleotides is a phosphorothioate modified nucleotide.

27. (previously amended) The immune adjuvant composition as claimed in claim 19, wherein the immunostimulatory oligonucleotide comprises a CpG motif having the formula 5'X1CGX23', wherein X1 is adenine, guanine, or thymine, and X2 is cytosine, thymine, or adenine.

28. (previously amended) The immune adjuvant composition as claimed in claim 27, wherein the CpG motif comprises TCTCCCAGCGTGCGCCAT (SEQ ID NO:1).

29.-62. (canceled)

63. (currently amended) An immune adjuvant composition comprising
(a) a saponin possessing immune immunostimulatory adjuvant activity, wherein the saponin is derived from *Quillaja saponaria*; and
(b) an immunostimulatory oligonucleotide comprising at least one unmethylated CpG dinucleotide motif,
wherein the saponin ~~adjuvant~~ comprises substantially pure QS-7, QS-17 or QS-18.

64. (currently amended) A method for ~~increasing~~ inducing the immune response in an individual to an antigen ~~to which an immune response is desired in the individual or a test system to which a nucleic acid encoding the antigen is administered~~ comprising administering to the individual ~~administering~~ an effective amount of ~~an~~ the immune adjuvant composition as claimed in claim 63 effective to induce the immune response, and wherein said individual is administered a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding the antigen.

65. (currently amended) An immune adjuvant composition comprising
(a) a saponin possessing immune immunostimulatory adjuvant activity, wherein the saponin is derived from *Quillaja saponaria*; and

(b) an immunostimulatory oligonucleotide comprising at least one unmethylated CpG dinucleotide motif,

wherein the immunostimulatory oligonucleotide comprises one or more ~~non-traditional nucleotides~~ phosphate-modified nucleotides.

66. (currently amended) The immune adjuvant composition as claimed in claim 65, wherein at least one of the one or more ~~non-traditional~~ phosphate-modified nucleotides is a phosphorothioate modified nucleotide.

67. (currently amended) A method for inducing the immune response in an individual to an antigen ~~to which an immune response is desired in an individual or a test system to which a nucleic acid encoding the antigen is administered~~ comprising administering to the individual an ~~effective~~ amount of ~~an~~ the immune adjuvant composition as claimed in claim 65 effective to induce the immune response, and wherein said individual is administered a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding the antigen.

68. (currently amended) A method for ~~increasing~~ inducing the immune response in an individual to an antigen ~~to which an immune response is desired in an individual or a test system to which a nucleic acid encoding the antigen is administered~~ comprising administering to the individual an ~~effective~~ amount of ~~an~~ the immune adjuvant composition as claimed in claim 66 effective to induce the immune response, and wherein said individual is administered a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding the antigen.

69. (currently amended) An immune adjuvant composition comprising

(a) a saponin possessing immune immunostimulatory adjuvant activity, wherein the saponin is derived from *Quillaja saponaria*; and

(b) an immunostimulatory oligonucleotide comprising at least one unmethylated CpG dinucleotide motif,

wherein the immunostimulatory oligonucleotide comprises
TCTCCCAGCGTGCGCCAT (SEQ ID NO:1).

70. (currently amended) A method for ~~increasing~~ inducing the immune response in an individual to an antigen ~~to which an immune response is desired in an individual or a test system to which a nucleic acid encoding the antigen is administered~~ comprising administering to the individual an effective amount of ~~an~~ the immune adjuvant composition as claimed in claim 69 effective to induce the immune response, and wherein said individual is administered a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding the antigen.

71. (currently amended) An immune adjuvant composition comprising
(a) a saponin possessing immune immunostimulatory adjuvant activity, wherein the saponin is derived from *Quillaja saponaria*; and
(b) an immunostimulatory oligonucleotide comprising at least one unmethylated CpG dinucleotide motif,
wherein the immunostimulatory oligonucleotide comprises
TCCATGACGTTCTGACGTT (SEQ ID NO:2).

72. (currently amended) A method for ~~increasing~~ inducing the immune response in an individual to an antigen ~~to which an immune response is desired in an individual or a test system to which a nucleic acid encoding the antigen is administered~~ comprising administering to the individual an effective amount of ~~an~~ the immune adjuvant composition as claimed in claim 71 effective to induce the immune response, and wherein said individual is administered a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding the antigen.

73. (currently amended) An immune adjuvant composition comprising
(a) a saponin possessing immune immunostimulatory adjuvant activity, wherein the saponin is derived from *Quillaja saponaria*; and
(b) an immunostimulatory oligonucleotide comprising at least one unmethylated CpG dinucleotide ~~motif~~, wherein ~~said~~ the immunostimulatory oligonucleotide is 4-40 bases in length.

74. (currently amended) A method for ~~increasing~~ inducing the immune response in an individual to an antigen ~~to which an immune response is desired in an~~

~~individual or a test system to which a nucleic acid encoding the antigen is administered~~
comprising administering to the individual an effective amount of ~~an~~ the immune adjuvant
composition as claimed in claim 73 effective to induce the immune response, and wherein
said individual is administered a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence
encoding the antigen.

75. (currently amended) An immune adjuvant composition comprising

(a) a saponin possessing immune immunostimulatory adjuvant activity, wherein
the saponin (i) is derived from *Quillaja saponaria* and (ii) is a chemically modified saponin;
and

(b) an immunostimulatory oligonucleotide comprising at least one unmethylated
CpG dinucleotide motif;

~~wherein the saponin adjuvant is a non-traditional saponin adjuvant.~~

76. (currently amended) A method for ~~increasing~~ inducing the immune
response in an individual to an antigen ~~to which an immune response is desired in an~~
~~individual or a test system to which a nucleic acid encoding the antigen is administered~~
comprising administering to the individual an effective amount of ~~an~~ the immune adjuvant
composition as claimed in claim 75 effective to induce the immune response, and wherein
said individual is administered a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence
encoding the antigen.

77. (currently amended) The composition of claim 19, wherein the saponin
~~adjuvant is a~~ chemically modified ~~non-traditional~~ saponin ~~adjuvant.~~

78. (currently amended) The immune adjuvant composition as claimed in
claim 27, wherein the immunostimulatory oligonucleotide comprises a CpG motif
~~comprises~~ comprising TCCATGACGTTCTGACGTT (SEQ ID NO:2).

79.-89. (canceled)

90. (currently amended) A method for ~~increasing~~ inducing the immune
response in an individual to an antigen ~~to which an immune response is desired in an~~

~~individual or a test system to which a nucleic acid encoding the antigen is administered~~
comprising administering to the individual an ~~effective~~ amount of ~~an~~ the immune adjuvant
composition as claimed in claim 19 effective to induce the immune response, and wherein
said individual is administered a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence
encoding the antigen.

91. (canceled)

92. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim ~~91~~ 90, wherein the
saponin ~~immunostimulatory adjuvant~~ comprises a substantially pure saponin ~~adjuvant~~.

93. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 92, wherein the
substantially pure saponin ~~immunostimulatory adjuvant~~ comprises QS-7, QS-17, QS-18, or
QS-21.

94. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 93, wherein the
substantially pure saponin ~~immunostimulatory adjuvant~~ comprises QS-21.

95. (previously added) The method as claimed in claim 90, wherein the
immunostimulatory oligonucleotide comprises a CpG motif comprising more than one
unmethylated CpG dinucleotide.

96. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 90, wherein the
immunostimulatory oligonucleotide comprises one or more phosphate-modified ~~non-~~
~~traditional~~ nucleotides.

97. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 96, wherein at least
one of the one or more phosphate-modified ~~non-traditional~~ nucleotides is a
phosphorothioate modified nucleotide.

98. (previously added) The method as claimed in claim 90, wherein the
immunostimulatory oligonucleotide comprises a CpG motif having the formula

5'X₁CGX₂3', wherein X₁ is adenine, guanine, or thymine, and X₂ is cytosine, thymine, or adenine.

99. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 98, wherein the immunostimulatory oligonucleotide comprising a CpG motif comprises comprising TCTCCCAGCGTGCGCCAT (SEQ ID NO:1) or TCCATGACGTTTCCTGACGTT (SEQ ID NO:2).

100. (previously added) The method as claimed in claim 90, wherein the individual is an animal.

101. (previously added) The method as claimed in claim 100, wherein the animal is a mammal.

102. (previously added) The method as claimed in claim 101, wherein the individual is a human.

103. (currently amended) An immune adjuvant composition comprising

- (a) a saponin possessing immune immunostimulatory adjuvant activity, wherein the saponin is derived from *Quillaja saponaria*;
- (b) an immunostimulatory oligonucleotide comprising at least one unmethylated CpG dinucleotide motif; and
- (c) a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence ~~that encodes~~ encoding an antigen, to which an immune response is desired wherein the nucleotide sequence is operatively linked to a promoter,

wherein the immunostimulatory oligonucleotide is not a part of the nucleic acid molecule comprising the nucleotide sequence ~~that encodes~~ encoding the antigen and the nucleotide sequence is operatively linked to a promoter.

104. (canceled)

105. (currently amended) The immune adjuvant composition as claimed in claim~~104~~ 103, wherein the saponin ~~adjuvant~~ comprises a substantially pure saponin ~~adjuvant~~.

106. (currently amended) The immune adjuvant composition as claimed in claim 105, wherein the substantially pure saponin ~~adjuvant~~ comprises QS-7, QS-17, QS-18, or QS-21.

107. (currently amended) The immune adjuvant composition as claimed in claim 106, wherein the substantially pure saponin ~~adjuvant~~ comprises QS-21.

108. (previously added) The immune adjuvant composition as claimed in claim 103, wherein the immunostimulatory oligonucleotide comprises a CpG motif comprising more than one unmethylated CpG dinucleotide.

109. (currently amended) The immune adjuvant composition as claimed in claim 103, wherein the immunostimulatory oligonucleotide comprises one or more phosphate-modified ~~non-traditional~~ nucleotides.

110. (currently amended) The immune adjuvant composition as claimed in claim 109, wherein at least one ~~or more~~ of the one or more phosphate-modified ~~non-traditional~~ nucleotides is a phosphorothioate modified nucleotide.

111. (previously added) The immune adjuvant composition as claimed in claim 103, wherein the immunostimulatory oligonucleotide comprises a CpG motif having the formula 5'X1CGX23', wherein X1 is adenine, guanine, or thymine, and X2 is cytosine, thymine, or adenine.

112. (currently amended) The immune adjuvant composition as claimed in claim 111, wherein the immunostimulatory oligonucleotide comprises a CpG motif ~~comprises~~ comprising TCTCCCAGCGTGCGCCAT (SEQ ID NO:1) or TCCATGACGTTCTGACGTT (SEQ ID NO:2).

113. (currently amended) The method of any of claims 64, 67, 68, 70, 72, 74, 76, or 90 ~~or 77~~, wherein the nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding the antigen is administered to the individual ~~or test system~~ within 0-2 days of the ~~administration~~ said administering of the immune adjuvant composition.

114. (currently amended) The method of claim 113, wherein the nucleic acid molecule encoding the antigen is administered to the individual ~~or test system~~ concurrently with the immune adjuvant composition.

115.-116. (canceled)